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JULY 4, 2021 BY RONNIE

Some Thoughts On Why Ontario Is Still Closed, While Other Provinces Are Fully Open



Search Results

Lobbyist	Last Amendment Date	Client Name	Company/Organization
Patrick Harris	01/20/2021	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Rubicon Strategy Inc.
Sarah Letersky	01/20/2021	AstraZeneca	Rubicon Strategy

Sarah Letersky	06/28/2021	Janssen Inc.	Rubicon Strategy
Patrick Harris	06/25/2021	Janssen Inc.	Rubicon Strategy Inc.

Why is Ontario still completely shut down? Why is there more freedom pretty much everywhere else in North America? Perhaps these bits of information will shine some light on that problem.

In an [earlier piece](#), it was shown that Sarah Letersky and Patrick Harris lobbied the Ontario Government on behalf of AstraZeneca. They were recently at it again, lobbying on behalf of Janssen in June, 2021.

Letersky helped install Ford into power in June 2018, and remained in that Government for a period afterwards. Now, she lobbies that same Government. Quite the conflict of interest.

And as repeated ad nauseum, these “vaccines” are not approved by Health Canada, but instead, have interim authorization under an emergency order. Not at all the same thing. In fact, it’s only legal to distribute because of the emergency declaration.

Hitesh Pandya	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Justin Bates	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Ushma Rajdev	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Amedeo Zottola	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Angeline Ng	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Timothy Brady	06/23/2021	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Fabien Paquette	06/23/2021	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Catherine Paquette	06/23/2021	Pfizer Canada Inc.

Name of Government or Government Agency	Amount (please)
Ministry of Health	\$381,200.00

Describe your lobbying goal(s) in detail. What are you attempting to influence or accomplish as a result of your communications with Ontario public office holders?

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Employment Standards Act: ***removal of pharmacist exemptions in ESA for improved***

labour standards. Insurance Act: prohibit restrictive preferred provider networks to protect patient choice in providers. Ontario Drug Benefit Act: sustainable pharmacy funding. Drug Interchangeability & Dispensing Fee Act: **advocacy on dispensing fees.** Pharmacy Act: scope of practice for pharmacists. Narcotic Safety and Awareness Act: to obtain data from the Narcotic Monitoring System. Health Sector Payment Transparency Act: fair reporting protocols. Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act: redefinition of where pharmacists can practice. Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act: for point-of-care and other forms of diagnostic test including for COVID19, and to order/receive lab test results for medication monitoring. Smoke Free Ontario Act: for pharmacy dispensing of medical cannabis. Cannabis Act: for pharmacy dispensing of medical cannabis. Public Hospitals Act: to enable full scope of pharmacist/technician practice. Long Term Care Homes Act: alignment of pharmacy funding with required services to be performed under the act.

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act: for the provision of government-supplied PPE for all front-line pharmacy professionals.

The Ontario Pharmacists Association, much like the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, is subsidized by taxpayers in order to keep its operations going. The OPA has also been involved with Bill 160 and Bill 132, helping to erode transparency among pharmaceutical companies.

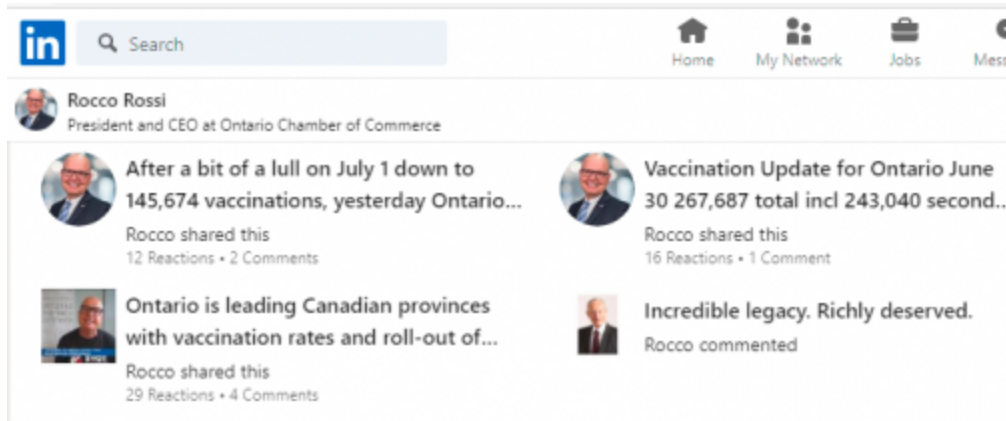
Louie DiPalma	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Trevor McPherson	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Catrina Kronfli	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Victor Korchenko	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Ceara Copps-Edwards	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Deanna Lahey	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Jessica Wright	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Brent Edwards	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Ester Gerassime	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Roland Isberto	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Worsley	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Claudia Dessanti	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Daniela Kibale	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Daniel Safayeni	06/22/2021	Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Name of Government or Government Agency	Amount (please
Employment and Social Development Canada	\$484,241.00
Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Disabilities	\$115,858.00
Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade	\$2,224,740.00

Describe your lobbying goal(s) in detail. What are you attempting to influence or accomplish as a result of your communications with Ontario public office holders?

Seeking legislation, regulation, and policies related to Ontario's economic competitiveness and prosperity of our membership and their communities. ***Issues around COVID-19 and advocacy on the impact on Ontario businesses across the province, particularly on supports for business & vaccine & rapid test distribution.*** Issues surrounding cannabis and advocating for the industry's growth across the province. Issues surrounding a competitive tax and regulatory environment including pursuing a simplified tax system and improve transparency in regulation. Issues around regional economic development – removal of inter-provincial trade barriers. Issues regarding modernizing energy and infrastructure (specifically broadband infrastructure investment). ***Issues concerning health care sustainability such as direct and indirect support for research and development as well as the path to economic recovery with regard to COVID-19.*** Issues relating to a skilled workforce such addressing the skills mismatch, reinventing employment and training services, and ensuring the apprenticeship system becomes more flexible. Issues related economic competitiveness with Ontario's agri-food sector, leveraging Ontario's innovation advantage and collaborate with the private sector to fully leverage Ontario's competitive advantages. Issues related to fiscal position of the province. Issues related to supporting Ontario's competitive advantage including agri-food, immigration tourism, and lowering electricity rates through investment in sustainable energy infrastructure.

Now, this could just be poor wording, but the Ontario Chamber of Commerce doesn't actually say that they want the Province reopened. They seem to be pushing for support for businesses forced to be closed.



Of course, it doesn't help that Rocco Rossi is the head of the Chamber of Commerce. He is a former Head of the Liberal Party of Canada, a former Mayoral Candidate in Toronto, and ran as Candidate for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. Rossi is a great example of politics being too close with lobbyists.





Dan Kelly
@CFIB

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Happy to say my 12 year old son was vaccinated today in Toronto. First dose done for my entire household.



The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses supposedly stands up for the rights of independents, as the name implies. However, it seems to do little beyond parroting official Government tallies.

Unfortunately, Dan Kelly, who runs the CFIB, is more content to virtue signal about taking his own experimental injections, and doing it to his MINOR children.

Lobbyist	Last Amendment Date	Client Name	Company/Organization
Daniel Matthew Boudreau	05/17/2021	Neighborhood Pharmacy Association	Hill+Knowlton Strategies Canada
Alexandra Valcour	05/17/2021	Neighborhood Pharmacy Association	Hill+Knowlton Strategies
William Pristanski	03/02/2021	Walmart Canada	Prospectus Associates

Walmart is once again lobbying Ford's Government. Their stated goal: "Lobbying for regulation changes to allow pharmacists to have expanded scope of practice." Of course, their business interests have grown considerably as of late, since they are considered essential, while so many are not.

See this earlier work on lobbying by big businesses, and how airline lobbying may have impacted inter-Provincial border closures.

Lobbyist	Last Amendment Date	Client Name	Company/Organization
Stephanie Dunlop	05/18/2021	Facedrive	Hill+Knowlton Strategies
Vivek Prabhu	04/15/2021	Facedrive	Hill+Knowlton Strategies
Alexis Easton	03/24/2021	Santha Technologies	Sussex Strategy
Jeff Silverstein	01/12/2021	Travel Industry Personnel	Radius Public Relations, Inc.



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Vivek Prabhu
 Vice President + Toronto Lead, Public Affairs at Hill+Knowlton Strategies


Senior Communications Advisor + Interim Digital Director
 Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
 Apr 2016 – Aug 2017 · 1 yr 5 mos
 Victoria, Canada

Led the digital transition of the BC Liberals from government into opposition in the Legislature under the leadership of Christy Clark, British Columbia's 35th Premier.

Gave communications and issues management advice to BC Liberal MLAs in the Legislature. Drafted products such as press releases, statements, etc. Created video products on behalf of the organization.

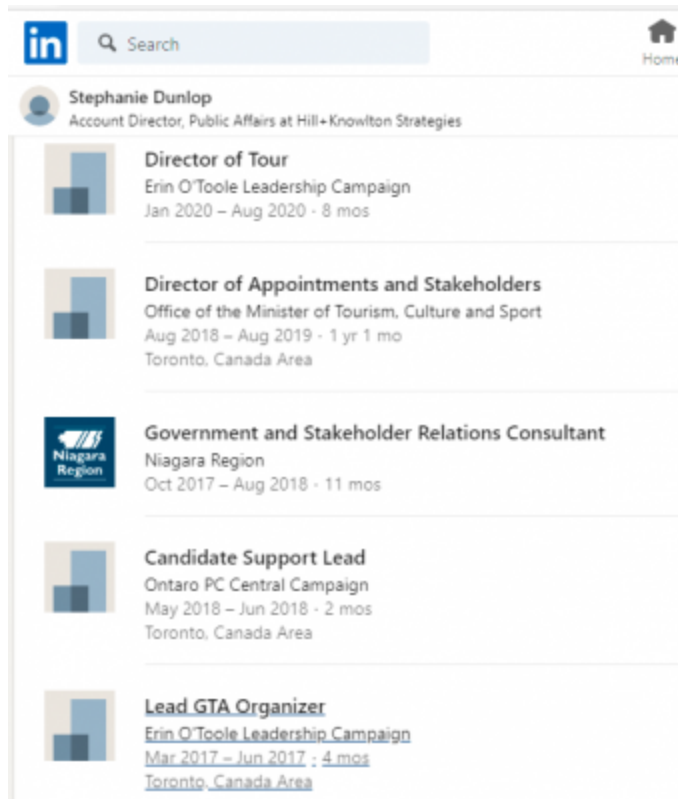
[see less](#)



 Doing Resource Development, the right...

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Office of the Prime Minister of Canada | Cabinet du premier ministre du Canada
 1 yr 9 mos
Special Assistant, Issues Management
 Mar 2015 – Nov 2015 · 9 mos
 Ottawa, Canada Area



Another area that has picked up is the delivery and rideshare industry. One such company is Facedrive, which uses lobbyists tied to the Ontario and Federal Conservative Parties. See [Prabhu](#) and [Dunlop](#).

Just a thought, but Facedrive may be contributing to why “conservative” politicians remain so pro-lockdown. It’s good for their bottom line.

Bliss Baker	12/03/2020	Loop Insights	Cumberland Strategies (formerly know Maple Leaf Strategies)
Adria Minsky	12/03/2020	Loop Insights	Cumberland Strategies
Carys Baker	11/30/2020	Loop Insights	Cumberland Strategies

  Home

 **Adria Minsky**
Senior Advisor at Cumberland Strategies

 **Director of Policy**
Office of the Minister of Government and Consumer Services
Sep 2018 – Apr 2019 · 8 mos
Toronto, Ontario

 **Director of Marketing and Communications**
CJPAC
Apr 2014 – Sep 2018 · 4 yrs 6 mos
Toronto, Ontario

 **Director of Communications**
Office of the Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular)
Jul 2013 – Feb 2014 · 8 mos
Ottawa, Canada Area

 **Director of Policy**
Office of the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development
May 2011 – Jul 2013 · 2 yrs 3 mos
Ottawa, Canada Area

  Home  My Profile

 **Carys Baker**
Senior Consultant at Cumberland Strategies

 **Senior Consultant**
Cumberland Strategies
Nov 2020 – Present · 9 mos

 **Consultant**
Maple Leaf Strategies
Jun 2019 – Nov 2020 · 1 yr 6 mos
Toronto, Canada Area

 **Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines**
3 yrs 2 mos

- Operations**
Apr 2016 – Jun 2018 · 2 yrs 3 mos
- Communications Intern**
May 2015 – Apr 2016 · 1 yr
Toronto, Ontario

Loop Insights Inc. is described as “a Vancouver-based Internet of Things (“IoT”) technology company that delivers transformative artificial intelligence (“AI”) automated marketing, contact tracing, and contactless solutions to the brick and mortar space.” It should come as no surprise that the people lobbying also have lengthy political ties.

So, why is Ontario mostly still shut down? Wild idea, but maybe there are certain people who have financial incentives to keep it that way.

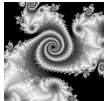
- (1) <http://lobbyist.oico.on.ca/Pages/Public/PublicSearch/>
- (2) <https://rubiconstrategy.com/>
- (3) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-letersky/>
- (4) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrick-harris-69348726/>
- (5) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fabienpaquette/>
- (6) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/catherine-paquette-526b0721/>
- (7) <https://twitter.com/CFIB/status/1402405151483248645>
- (8) <https://twitter.com/BNNBloomberg/status/1400170795339497482>
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- (10) <https://twitter.com/CFIB/status/1395133016423505923>
- (11) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/roccorossi/>
- (12) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephdunlop/>
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- (14) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivek-prabhu-63850120/>
- (15) <https://www.facedrive.com/>
- (16) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/adria-minsky-b8ba9277/>
- (17) <https://archive.is/7yd7R>
- (18) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/carysbaker/>
- (19) <https://archive.is/4fZO3>

- [B.C. Pharmacy Association](#)
- [Capital Hill Group](#)
- [Counsel Public Affairs \(Georgakopoulos\)](#)
- [Counsel Public Affairs \(Prevost, Lavigne\)](#)
- [Counsel Public Affairs \(Ruddy\)](#)
- [Counsel Public Affairs \(Ruddy\)](#)
- [Counsel Public Affairs \(Federal\)](#)
- [Crestview Strategy](#)
- [Crestview Strategy \(Blais\)](#)
- [Crestview Strategy \(Arsenault\)](#)
- [Crestview Strategy \(The Gang\)](#)
- [Crestview Strategy \(GlaxoSmithKline & Medicago\)](#)
- [Enight Canada \(Shoppers Drug Mart\)](#)
- [Enterprise Canada/Sussex Strategy \(Lantsman et al.\)](#)

- [Harbourview Public Affairs \(Batherson\)](#)
- [Loyalist Public Affairs \(Mader, Froggatt\)](#)
- [Magnet Strategy Group \(Danielle Peters\)](#)
- [McKercher LLP \(VIDO-InterVac, Douglas Richardson\)](#)
- [Ontario Pharmacists Association: Lantsman, Bill 132](#)
- [Rubicon Strategy \(Letersky\)](#)
- [Wellington Advocacy \(Curran et. al\)](#)
- [Various Nova Scotia Lobbying \(Iain Rankin, Strang\)](#)
- [Various Ontario Lobbying, Bill 160 \(Disclosing Payoffs\)](#)

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One Reply to “Some Thoughts On Why Ontario Is Still Closed, While Other Provinces Are Fully Open”



Arby

JULY 4, 2021 AT 12:43 PM

As I recall, interprovincial trade barriers are a myth, which means that the lobbyist is after some other freedom. Alas, democracy means gangsterism – for too many.